

REMARKS

Claims 18-20 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 3, 6-12, 15-17 and 21 have been amended. New claim 22 has been added. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, inter alia, at page 26, lines 12-13 and page 23, lines 4-8. A copy of the claims as amended is provided for the Examiner's convenience in the enclosed Appendix A. Please substitute the amended claim set.

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any objection and/or rejection made by the Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional applications.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 226272001403. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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